

From: willepaul@worldnet.att.net  
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To: EBC  
Subject: E-Patent Reference

I object strongly to providing patent references in .pdf format.

(1) Adobe, like Microsoft, is very aggressive in assuring incompatibility not only with competitors but with prior versions of its own products. For the federal government to promote a private corporation in this way is improper and only feeds the monster.

(2) The reference to .pdf format is vague. .pdf files that are images cannot be converted to text. This is a great handicap when trying to analyze patent text.

(3) .tif format is the format of the legal community and is not a proprietary format. Files in this format can be converted to text with any available OCR software.

(4) There is no technical reason why .tif could not be used.

(5) The PTO is choosing an inferior technology.

I understand the goal of reducing costs but .pdf is not the answer.

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25,274